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LOUISIANA

JOB SERVICE

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Dudley J. Patin, Jr., Secretary

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 94094

JANUARY 1985

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FEBRUARY 26, 1985

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY JANUARY 1985				REVISED DECEMBER 1984				REVISED JANUARY 1984			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,911.9	1,698.1	213.8	11.2	1,893.4	1,707.7	185.7	9.8	1,886.5	1,680.2	206.3	10.9
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	61.4	55.8	5.6	9.2	60.7	55.6	5.1	8.3	60.4	55.1	5.3	8.8
Baton Rouge 2/	252.1	229.0	23.1	9.2	249.3	227.8	21.5	8.6	239.2	218.4	20.8	8.7
Houma - Thibodaux 3/	86.2	76.7	9.5	11.0	84.6	76.6	8.0	9.4	83.6	73.6	10.0	12.0
Lafayette 4/	108.5	99.4	9.1	8.4	108.1	100.3	7.8	7.3	109.6	99.7	9.9	9.1
Lake Charles 5/	75.9	64.0	11.9	15.7	74.1	64.7	9.4	12.6	77.1	65.1	12.0	15.6
Monroe 6/	60.2	54.0	6.2	10.2	61.1	55.8	5.3	8.7	62.0	55.7	6.3	10.1
New Orleans 7/	567.7	506.3	61.4	10.8	561.4	506.6	54.8	9.8	562.8	509.3	53.5	9.5
Shreveport 8/	160.1	146.5	13.6	8.5	158.5	146.8	11.7	7.4	155.1	140.5	14.6	9.4

Parishes included in above Labor Market Areas are listed at the end of the Employment and Payroll Trends narrative.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

This is the initial publication of economic data for the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Statistical Area designated by the Office of Management and Budget in June 1983. Individual Civilian Labor Force data for LaFourche and Terrebonne parishes will no longer appear in the small area table of this newsletter. Other changes includes; Alexandria LMA-Rapides parish only, Lafayette LMA-now includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes, New Orleans LMA-includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, plus newly added St. Charles and St. John the Baptist, Shreveport LMA has been reduced to Caddo and Bossier parishes only.

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Total nonagricultural employment in Louisiana during January stood at 1,588,800, a drop of 22,200 workers from last month but 26,900 higher than the January a year ago figure. The decrease in Louisiana's nonmanufacturing employment for the current month was led by a seasonal downturn in trade. Lower employment in construction and government also contributed significantly to the fall in nonmanufacturing payrolls. Louisiana's manufacturing payrolls were down as a result of a seasonal decline in nondurable goods.

Estimated employment in the durable goods segment of manufacturing increased by 100 in the December to January reporting. Increased production of glass and glassware and of certain miscellaneous nonmetallic mineral products accounted for the upturn in stone, clay and glass products employment. More activity at iron and steel foundries was largely responsible for the higher employment in primary metal industries. Fabricated metal products payrolls fell as a result of a decrease in the production of fabricated structural metal products. Employment in the machinery, except electrical, industry was up due to increased need for engines and turbines and construction and related machinery. Production of communication equipment decreased in January, resulting in lower employment for the electrical and electronic industry. Employee cutbacks in certain miscellaneous manufacturing industries accounted for the decrease in other durable goods.

Nondurable goods employment, at 94,600, was 3,900 lower than last month and 3,000 below the January a year ago figure. Seasonal declines in the processing of sugar cane were primary in the drop of food and kindred products payrolls. The lower employment level in apparel and other textile products resulted in large part from decreased output of men's and boy's furnishings. The paper and allied products industry payroll level was down from the current month mostly resulting from the closing of a paper mill. Lessened demand for industrial organic chemicals primarily accounted for the drop in chemicals and allied products payrolls. Petroleum and coal products employment was down from last month due to less business in petroleum refining.

Louisiana's employment in nonmanufacturing industries during January was 1,408,500, down by 18,400 from the December level. Mining employment was lower due mostly to decreased production of crude petroleum and natural gas. A lessening of activity in the heavy construction segment and employment decreases in most special trades accounted for the decline in construction payrolls. Transportation and public utilities employment was down slightly as a result of a decrease in transportation, except railroads, payrolls. Seasonal cutbacks in retail trade were most significant in the downward turn of trade employment. Less business for insurance carriers contributed to the decrease in the finance, insurance and real estate segment of nonmanufacturing. Decreases in business services, commercial sports and educational services were significant in the downward fluctuation of services employment. Government employment in January was down due in large part to a decrease in state education payrolls.

Estimated total unemployment in the state for January amounted to 213,800, an increase of 28,100 from the December level. The unemployment rate for January was 11.2 percent compared to 9.8 percent last month and 10.9 percent in January of last year. The comparable national unemployment rate for the current month was 8.0 percent compared to 7.0 percent last month and 8.8 percent a year ago. Louisiana's civilian labor force was estimated at 1,911,900, an increase of 18,500 from last month. Total employment moved from 1,707,700 in December to 1,698,100 in January, a decrease of 9,600.

The state's unemployment rate may go up slightly over the next month or two. Manufacturing employment may go up next month. Trade employment is expected to fall, while government payrolls will probably rise.

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes LaFourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Quachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany , St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier and Caddo parishes.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	January 1985*	December 1984**	January 1984**	Net Change from December 1984	Net Change from January 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,588.8	1,611.0	1,561.9	- 22.2	+ 26.9
MINING	81.4	82.4	80.7	- 1.0	+ 0.7
Oil and Gas Extraction	78.4	79.3	77.5	- 0.9	+ 0.9
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.0	3.1	3.2	- 0.1	- 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	111.0	114.1	112.0	- 3.1	- 1.0
MANUFACTURING	180.3	184.1	175.2	- 3.8	+ 5.1
Durable Goods	85.7	85.6	77.6	+ 0.1	+ 8.1
Lumber and Wood Products	13.3	13.3	13.2	0	+ 0.1
Furniture and Fixtures	1.0	1.0	0.8	0	+ 0.2
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	8.2	8.1	7.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
Primary Metal Industries	3.7	3.6	3.7	+ 0.1	0
Fabricated Metal Products	12.5	12.6	12.4	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Machinery, Except Electrical	10.3	10.1	9.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.9
Electrical & Electronic Equipment	11.4	11.5	8.1	- 0.1	+ 3.3
Transportation Equipment	22.9	22.9	20.2	0	+ 2.7
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.4	2.5	2.2	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	94.6	98.5	97.6	- 3.9	- 3.0
Food & Kindred Products	19.8	21.8	20.8	- 2.0	- 1.0
Apparel & Other Textile Products	9.4	9.6	9.1	- 0.2	+ 0.3
Paper & Allied Products	11.2	11.8	11.6	- 0.6	- 0.4
Printing & Publishing	10.2	10.2	10.0	0	+ 0.2
Chemicals & Allied Products	28.4	28.5	29.5	- 0.1	- 1.1
Petroleum and Coal Products	11.9	12.9	13.1	- 1.0	- 1.2
Petroleum Refining	11.0	12.0	12.2	- 1.0	- 1.2
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	3.7	3.7	3.5	0	+ 0.2
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	118.1	118.2	116.5	- 0.1	+ 1.6
Railroad Transportation	7.4	7.4	7.1	0	+ 0.3
Transportation, ex. Railroads	68.7	68.8	66.7	- 0.1	+ 2.0
Communication & Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Ser.	42.0	42.0	42.7	0	- 0.7
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	381.2	389.5	372.5	- 8.3	+ 8.7
Wholesale Trade	95.2	95.6	92.8	- 0.4	+ 2.4
Retail Trade	286.0	293.9	279.7	- 7.9	+ 6.3
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	59.8	64.3	60.5	- 4.5	- 0.7
Food Stores	53.6	54.1	51.1	- 0.5	+ 2.5
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	32.6	32.6	31.3	0	+ 1.3
Eating & Drinking Places	85.7	87.5	83.7	- 1.8	+ 2.0
Other Retail Trade	54.3	55.4	53.1	- 1.1	+ 1.2
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	83.2	83.4	82.5	- 0.2	+ 0.7
Banking	27.4	27.5	27.1	- 0.1	+ 0.3
SERVICES	311.1	313.3	305.5	- 2.2	+ 5.6
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	21.8	22.1	21.7	- 0.3	+ 0.1
Other Services	289.3	291.2	283.8	- 1.9	+ 5.5
GOVERNMENT	322.5	326.0	317.0	- 3.5	+ 5.5
Federal	34.2	34.4	34.4	- 0.2	- 0.2
State and Local	288.3	291.6	282.6	- 3.3	+ 5.7
State	98.3	101.4	102.1	- 3.1	- 3.8
Local	190.0	190.2	180.5	- 0.2	+ 9.5

* Preliminary **Revised
(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries
(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	January '85*	December '84**	January '84**	January '85*	December '84**	January '84**	January '85*	December '84**	January '84**
All MANUFACTURING (1)									
Durable Goods									
Lumber & Wood Products									
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.									
Fabricated Metal Products									
Machinery, ex. Electrical									
Electric & Electronic Equip.									
Transportation Equipment									
Nondurable Goods									
Food & Kindred Products									
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.									
Paper & Allied Products									
Printing & Publishing									
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.									
Petroleum & Coal Products									
Petroleum Refining									
MINING									
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES									
BANKING									

DUE TO THE TIME REQUIRED FOR REVISIONS, INFORMATION FOR BOTH JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1985 WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

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(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately full and part-time workers in manufacturing and nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION BY LABOR MARKET AREA

	PRELIMINARY 01 85				REVISED 12 84			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE
CROWLEY (ACADIA)	23,400	20,600	2,800	11.9	23,200	20,825	2,375	10.2
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	6,200	4,900	1,300	21.0	6,225	5,075	1,150	18.5
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	10,625	8,700	1,925	18.0	10,625	9,225	1,400	13.2
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)	12,325	9,575	2,750	22.3	12,500	10,225	2,275	18.2
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	12,425	10,775	1,650	13.3	12,075	10,700	1,375	11.4
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	7,125	6,350	775	10.8	7,125	6,425	700	9.7
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	4,850	4,300	550	11.5	4,850	4,400	450	9.4
CAMERON (CAMERON)	4,475	4,075	400	9.0	4,500	4,150	350	7.8
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	5,750	4,850	900	15.8	5,625	4,900	725	12.8
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	7,200	6,575	625	8.8	7,125	6,575	550	7.7
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	9,900	8,250	1,650	16.6	9,600	8,375	1,225	12.8
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	11,575	10,300	1,275	11.0	11,650	10,550	1,100	9.4
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	5,000	3,825	1,175	23.6	4,875	4,050	825	16.9
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	7,750	6,900	850	11.0	7,725	6,950	775	9.9
VILLE PLATTE(EVANGELINE)	13,275	11,275	2,000	15.1	13,125	11,400	1,725	13.1
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	8,425	6,875	1,550	18.5	8,150	6,900	1,250	15.4
COLFAX (GRANT)	3,800	3,025	775	20.2	3,700	3,050	650	17.7
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	34,475	30,275	4,200	12.2	34,300	30,850	3,450	10.1
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	15,575	13,525	2,050	13.2	15,325	13,550	1,775	11.6
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	6,350	5,750	600	9.5	6,325	5,825	500	7.9
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	12,550	10,800	1,750	14.0	12,275	10,800	1,475	11.9
JENA (LASALLE)	6,375	5,725	650	10.1	6,375	5,850	525	8.1
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	21,175	20,150	1,025	4.8	21,975	20,775	1,200	5.5
TALLULAH (MADISON)	5,400	4,400	1,000	18.4	5,175	4,450	725	13.8
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	12,150	10,375	1,775	14.7	11,950	10,525	1,425	12.0
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	17,225	15,475	1,750	10.1	16,950	15,450	1,500	8.8
POINT-A-LA-HACHE (PLAQUM.)	13,700	12,550	1,150	8.4	13,800	12,775	1,025	7.5
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)	12,750	11,175	1,575	12.3	13,125	11,750	1,375	10.4
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	4,150	3,725	425	10.2	4,400	3,900	500	11.2
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	8,725	7,425	1,300	14.9	8,600	7,575	1,025	12.0
MANY (SABINE)	8,150	7,325	825	10.0	8,125	7,425	700	8.6
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	4,075	3,650	425	10.6	4,125	3,725	400	9.9
LUTCHER (ST. JAMES)	10,900	9,050	1,850	17.0	10,750	9,175	1,575	14.7
OPELOUSAS (ST. LANDRY)	33,875	27,775	6,100	18.0	33,150	27,875	5,275	15.9
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	32,275	28,075	4,200	13.0	31,800	28,375	3,425	10.8
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	35,650	29,900	5,750	16.1	35,200	30,150	5,050	14.4
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	3,075	2,650	425	13.4	2,975	2,650	325	10.6
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	7,350	6,375	975	13.4	7,275	6,450	825	11.4
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	23,875	21,000	2,875	12.0	23,675	21,150	2,525	10.7
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	12,450	10,950	1,500	12.0	12,500	11,200	1,300	10.5
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	14,700	12,375	2,325	15.7	14,450	12,525	1,925	13.4
MINDEN (WEBSTER)	15,225	13,125	2,100	13.8	15,100	13,300	1,800	11.9
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	4,325	3,350	975	22.8	4,175	3,375	800	19.2
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	3,675	3,350	325	9.1	3,675	3,400	275	7.8
WINNFIELD (WINN)	5,500	4,950	550	10.1	5,375	4,875	500	9.4

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESIS.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25 EXCEPT LMAS AND STATEWIDE WHICH ARE ROUNDED TO NEAREST 100. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

ALEXANDRIA AFFA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	January 1985*	December 1984**	January 1984**	Net Change From December 1984	Net Change From January 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	45.1	45.7	43.5	- 0.6	+ 1.6
MANUFACTURING	3.5	3.3	3.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Durable Goods	2.3	2.3	2.2	0	+ 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.7	0	- 0.1
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.5	0	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.0	1.2	+ 0.2	0
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.8	0.6	0.8	+ 0.2	0
MINING	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.7	2.8	2.6	- 0.1	+ 0.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	11.1	11.6	10.6	- 0.5	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.3	2.2	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	8.8	9.3	8.4	- 0.5	+ 0.4
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	1.8	2.0	1.8	- 0.2	0
Auto Dlrs. & Svc. Sta.	1.0	1.1	1.0	- 0.1	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2.3	2.4	2.2	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Other Retail Trade	3.7	3.8	3.4	- 0.1	+ 0.3
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	2.5	2.5	2.4	0	+ 0.1
SERVICES	9.8	10.0	9.4	- 0.2	+ 0.4
Health Services	4.1	4.1	4.0	0	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	12.9	12.9	12.7	0	+ 0.2
Federal	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
State and Local	10.4	10.4	10.2	0	+ 0.2
State	5.3	5.3	5.3	0	0
Local	5.1	5.1	4.9	0	+ 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

The Alexandria area had an estimated nonagricultural employment of 45,100 during January. This employment estimate is 600 less than the previous month and 1,600 more than January of last year.

Total employment in the manufacturing industries increased by 200 since the previous month, and by 100 since this month last year. The increase since last month was in nondurable goods and the increase since last January was in durable goods.

Total employment in the nonmanufacturing sectors decreased by 800 since last month. The decline was in the retail trade and services sectors, and was primarily a seasonal decrease. Nonmanufacturing employment compared to this month a year ago has increased by 1,500. All major sectors reveal increased employment levels with the exception of mining, and transportation, communication and utilities, which have been stable.

Employment is expected to decline slightly during the next thirty days. The number of unemployed will continue to increase, as outdoor related employment will continue to be hampered by inclement weather.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	January 1985*	December 1984**	January 1984**	Net Change From December 1984	Net Change From January 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	218.0	219.3	204.9	- 1.3	+ 13.1
MANUFACTURING	21.4	21.7	21.3	- 0.3	+ 0.1
Durable Goods	4.2	4.2	3.9	0	+ 0.3
Lumber and Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
Fabricated Metal Products	1.0	1.0	0.8	0	+ 0.2
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.7	0	0
Nondurable Goods	17.2	17.5	17.4	- 0.3	- 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	2.1	2.3	2.0	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.6	1.5	0	+ 0.1
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	12.4	12.5	13.0	- 0.1	- 0.6
Other Nondurable Goods	1.1	1.1	0.9	0	+ 0.2
MINING	1.2	1.2	1.0	0	+ 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	23.4	23.2	19.8	+ 0.2	+ 3.6
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILTIES	11.0	10.8	10.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.8
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	53.3	54.4	49.9	- 1.1	+ 3.4
Wholesale Trade	11.2	11.2	11.0	0	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	42.1	43.2	38.9	- 1.1	+ 3.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	13.4	13.5	12.5	- 0.1	+ 0.9
SERVICES	39.5	40.0	38.2	- 0.5	+ 1.3
GOVERNMENT	54.8	54.5	52.0	+ 0.3	+ 2.8
Federal	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
State and Local	52.8	52.5	50.0	+ 0.3	+ 2.8
State	32.2	31.7	29.8	+ 0.5	+ 2.4
Local	20.6	20.8	20.2	- 0.2	+ 0.4

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	January '85*	December '84**	January '84**	January '85*	December '84**	January '84**	January '85*	December '84**	January '84**
All MANUFACTURING (1)									
Petro-Chemicals									

DUE TO THE TIME REQUIRED FOR REVISIONS, INFORMATION FOR BOTH JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1985 WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA at 218,000 during January was down 1,300 from the revised December estimate and up 13,100 over the total for last January. Manufacturing was down 300 and nonmanufacturing was down 1,000.

Employment in manufacturing at 21,400 during January, was down 300 from the revised December total. Durable goods had no change. Nondurable goods were down due to a seasonal decline in food and kindred products and less business in industrial organic chemicals.

Estimated employment in nonmanufacturing at 196,600 during January, was down 1,000 from the revised December total. Mining had no change. Construction was up due to more business in general building contractors-non residential buildings and in heavy construction, except highway and street construction. Transportation and public utilities were up due to more business in trucking, local and long distance and in sanitary services. Seasonal changes helped improve employment in firms involved in arrangement of transportation. Retail trade was down due to seasonal declines in department stores, grocery stores and in eating and drinking places. Finance, insurance and real estate were down due to seasonal declines in real estate operators (except developers) and lessors. Services were down due to seasonal drops in hotels, motels and tourist courts, photographic studios, portrait, miscellaneous business services, legal services, and in engineering, architectural and surveying services. Government was up due to increased employment in state hospitals and in the administration of environmental programs.

Total employment of Baton Rouge LMA's residents was estimated at 229,000 during January, up 1,200 over last month's revised estimate and up 10,600 over January of last year. Unemployment at 23,100 during January was up 1,600 over the December revised estimate. January's unemployment rate was 9.2 percent compared to 8.6 percent for last month and 8.7 percent in January of last year. The comparable state unemployment rate for January was 11.2 percent. The local civilian labor force totaled 252,100 during the current period.

Employment in the Baton Rouge LMA is expected to continue in a seasonal decline during the coming month.

The Baton Rouge and Gonzales Job Service Offices served 2,962 individuals with new or renewal applications, and placed 442 applicants in jobs during January.

The consumer price index for December, 1984 for all urban consumers was 315.5 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 312.2 using base period 1967=100.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	January 1985*	December 1984**	January 1984**	Net Change From December 1984	Net Change From January 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	63.6	64.2	60.2	- 0.6	+ 3.4
MANUFACTURING	6.3	6.3	5.1	0	+ 1.2
Durable Goods	4.3	4.1	3.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.6
Nondurable Goods	2.0	2.2	1.4	- 0.2	+ 0.6
MINING	8.5	8.6	8.0	- 0.1	+ 0.5
CONSTRUCTION	3.5	3.5	2.9	0	+ 0.6
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	7.4	7.5	7.3	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Water Transportation	5.0	5.0	4.7	0	+ 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	15.3	15.5	14.9	- 0.2	+ 0.4
Wholesale Trade	3.6	3.6	3.7	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	11.7	11.9	11.2	- 0.2	+ 0.5
Eating & Drinking Places	3.8	3.8	3.3	0	+ 0.5
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.5	2.4	2.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
SERVICES	9.1	9.3	9.0	- 0.2	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	11.0	11.1	10.6	- 0.1	+ 0.4
Federal	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
State and Local	10.6	10.7	10.2	- 0.1	+ 0.4
State	3.0	3.0	2.9	0	+ 0.1
Local	7.6	7.7	7.3	- 0.1	+ 0.3

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment for the Houma-Thibodaux area totaled 63,600 in January, down 600 from last month and up 3,400 from one year ago. The downturn was in nonmanufacturing as manufacturing employment held steady over the month.

Manufacturing employment totaled 6,300 in January, the same as last month. The seasonal decrease in food and kindred products was offset by the increase in fabricated metal products and transportation equipment. Compared to one year ago, manufacturing employment is up 1,200.

Estimated unemployment in January pushed up to 9,500, a level 1,500 above December. Seasonal factors were mainly responsible. Joblessness presently comprises 11.0 percent of the labor force compared to 9.4 percent in December and 12.0 percent in January 1984. The unemployment rate of 11.0 percent in January was slightly lower than the state rate of 11.2 percent, but higher than the comparable national rate of 8.0 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits numbered 2,289.

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the coming months is expected to show an overall increase. Mining and construction were probably add workers as weather conditions improve. Retail trade will benefit from shopping for the approaching Easter season. Unemployment will likely decrease as employment increases.

Scattered decreases in several nonmanufacturing industries accounted for the 600 drop in employment over the month. Seasonal layoffs were reported by retail trade; services were down 200. Mining and transportation and public utilities exhibited downturns, while construction showed no change. The decrease in government was at the local level.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	January 1985*	December 1984**	January 1984**	Net Change From December 1984	Net Change From January 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	97.0	98.7	95.6	- 1.7	+ 1.4
MANUFACTURING	5.9	6.0	5.9	- 0.1	0
Durable Goods	2.3	2.3	2.2	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	3.6	3.7	3.7	- 0.1	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	1.5	1.6	1.5	- 0.1	0
MINING	17.0	17.4	16.5	- 0.4	+ 0.5
CONSTRUCTION	5.3	5.3	5.1	0	+ 0.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	7.1	7.2	7.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	25.9	26.2	25.6	- 0.3	+ 0.3
Wholesale Trade	6.7	6.7	6.7	0	0
Retail Trade	19.2	19.5	18.9	- 0.3	+ 0.3
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.7	2.8	2.9	- 0.1	- 0.2
Food Stores	3.2	3.2	2.9	0	+ 0.3
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.9	1.9	1.9	0	0
Other Retail Trade	11.4	11.6	11.2	- 0.2	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.1	4.1	4.1	0	0
SERVICES	19.2	19.3	18.9	- 0.1	+ 0.3
GOVERNMENT	12.5	13.2	12.5	- 0.7	0
Federal	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
State and Local	11.6	12.3	11.6	- 0.7	0
State	4.4	5.1	4.2	- 0.7	+ 0.2
Local	7.2	7.2	7.4	0	- 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Lafayette during January stood at 97,000, a decrease of 1,700 from the previous month but a gain of 1,400 from a comparable period a year ago.

Lafayette's nonmanufacturing industries, especially trade and government, contributed most to the lower employment level for the current month. The manufacturing section remained relatively constant.

Nonmanufacturing was 91,000, a decrease of 1,600 from the previous month and an increase of 1,400 from January of 1984.

The wholesale and retail trade stood at 25,900, a decrease of 300 from the previous month. This decrease was due to the layoff of temporary help for the Christmas season.

Government showed a decrease of 700 from December of 1984. This was due to a decrease of employment in state education. This number should increase next month when school is back in session.

Lafayette's unemployment rate should remain about the same for the next couple of months. The oilfield segment continues in its slump.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	January 1985*	December 1984**	January 1984**	Net Change From December 1984	Net Change From January 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	58.7	60.4	59.3	- 1.7	- 0.6
MANUFACTURING	9.2	10.0	9.8	- 0.8	- 0.6
Durable Goods	1.0	1.0	0.9	0	+ 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.6	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	8.2	9.0	8.9	- 0.8	- 0.7
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Chemical & Pet Products	7.6	8.1	8.0	- 0.5	- 0.4
Other Nondurable Goods	0.2	0.5	0.5	- 0.3	- 0.3
MINING	1.9	1.9	2.1	0	- 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	4.0	4.1	4.6	- 0.1	- 0.6
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	4.4	4.5	4.2	- 0.1	+ 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.7	15.0	14.1	- 0.3	+ 0.6
Wholesale Trade	3.3	3.3	3.3	0	0
Retail Trade	11.4	11.7	10.8	- 0.3	+ 0.6
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.5	2.6	2.4	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Auto Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.2	1.3	1.2	- 0.1	0
Eating & Drinking Places	3.3	3.4	3.2	- 0.1	+ 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.7	2.8	2.8	- 0.1	- 0.1
SERVICES	10.7	10.9	11.1	- 0.2	- 0.4
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
GOVERNMENT	11.1	11.2	10.6	- 0.1	+ 0.5
Federal	0.7	0.7	0.6	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	10.4	10.5	10.0	- 0.1	+ 0.4
State	3.9	4.0	3.7	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Local	6.5	6.5	6.3	0	+ 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

The number of workers on nonagricultural payrolls in the Lake Charles area dropped sharply below the December level. Losses totalling 1,700 occurred in all major industry groups. The current worker total falls 600 below the year ago level.

Manufacturing employment currently estimated at 9,200 dropped 800 below the mid-December level and this was centered in chemical and petroleum products. The current level is 600 below January 1984.

The number of workers on nonmanufacturing payrolls declined by 900 from the previous month. Most of this decline was in the trade and services. This was due to the hiring of temporary help for the Christmas season - thus the layoff.

Employment is not expected to increase during the next couple of months. Unemployment should remain about the same.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	January 1985*	December 1984**	January 1984**	Net Change From December 1984	Net Change From January 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	52.3	54.4	53.1	- 2.1	- 0.8
MANUFACTURING	7.2	7.2	7.1	0	+ 0.1
Durable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.1	0	0
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.9	1.9	1.9	0	0
Nondurable Goods	5.1	5.1	5.0	0	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.8	0.8	0.9	0	- 0.1
Chemical & Allied Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	3.5	3.5	3.3	0	+ 0.2
MINING	0.6	0.7	0.7	- 0.1	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	2.9	3.1	2.9	- 0.2	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.7	2.7	2.7	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	16.1	16.7	14.4	- 0.6	+ 1.7
Wholesale Trade	4.3	4.4	4.1	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	11.8	12.3	10.3	- 0.5	+ 1.5
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	3.0	3.6	2.9	- 0.6	+ 0.1
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.3	1.3	1.2	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.9	3.9	2.9	0	+ 1.0
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.1	4.1	3.9	0	+ 0.2
SERVICES	10.4	10.5	10.4	- 0.1	0
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Personal Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Health Services	4.4	4.4	4.4	0	0
GOVERNMENT	8.3	9.4	11.0	- 1.1	- 2.7
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	7.7	8.8	10.4	- 1.1	- 2.7
State	3.5	4.5	4.9	- 1.0	- 1.4
Local	4.2	4.3	5.5	- 0.1	- 1.3

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment declined by an estimated 2,100 to 52,300 during January. The decline followed normal trends with the ending of the holiday season and semester break at local educational facilities.

Manufacturing, estimated at 7,200 was stable.

Nonmanufacturing, estimated at 45,100, was 2,100 below the December estimate. Mining declined by 100, following the trend of construction, which was down 200. Wholesale and retail trade was down by 600, reflecting the end of the holiday season. Services was down by 100. Government, estimated at 8,300, was 1,100 below the December estimate and reflected the semester break at educational facilities. Student employment was the main factor in this drop. All other segments were unchanged.

Over the next sixty days employment is expected to be fairly stable while unemployment will remain high.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	January 1985*	December 1984**	January 1984**	Net Change From December 1984	Net Change From January 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	536.5	543.1	532.5	- 6.6	+ 4.0
MANUFACTURING	47.9	48.0	46.7	- 0.1	+ 1.2
Durable Goods	23.9	23.8	23.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
Lumber and Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	2.5	2.7	2.8	- 0.2	- 0.3
Fabricated Metal Products	3.1	3.0	2.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Machinery, Except Electrical	3.0	2.9	2.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Transportation Equipment	12.9	12.8	12.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
Ship and Boatbuilding & Repairing	8.3	8.2	7.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.9
Other Durable Goods	1.8	1.8	2.1	0	- 0.3
Nondurable Goods	24.0	24.2	23.6	- 0.2	+ 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	7.1	7.3	7.3	- 0.2	- 0.2
Apparel & Other Textile Products	2.0	2.0	1.8	0	+ 0.2
Paper & Allied Products	1.1	1.2	1.1	- 0.1	0
Printing & Publishing	3.8	3.7	3.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Chemicals and Allied Products	4.7	4.7	4.7	0	0
Petroleum & Coal Products	5.0	5.0	5.0	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.3	0.3	0.4	0	- 0.1
MINING	20.4	20.5	19.0	- 0.1	+ 1.4
CONSTRUCTION	32.2	33.0	35.4	- 0.8	- 3.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	46.3	46.7	47.4	- 0.4	- 1.1
Railroad Transportation	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
Water Transportation	15.1	14.9	15.7	+ 0.2	- 0.6
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	143.2	146.1	135.9	- 2.9	+ 7.3
Wholesale Trade	36.2	36.4	35.8	- 0.2	+ 0.4
Retail Trade	107.0	109.7	100.1	- 2.7	+ 6.9
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	31.7	31.9	32.8	- 0.2	- 1.1
SERVICES	128.6	130.0	127.0	- 1.4	+ 1.6
GOVERNMENT	86.2	86.9	88.3	- 0.7	- 2.1
Federal	14.7	14.8	15.1	- 0.1	- 0.4
State and Local	71.5	72.1	73.2	- 0.6	- 1.7
State	21.4	21.8	22.0	- 0.4	- 0.6
Local	50.1	50.3	51.2	- 0.2	- 1.1

NEW ORLEANS AREA

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	January '85*	December '84**	January '84**	January '85*	December '84**	January '84**	January '85*	December '84**	January '84**
All MANUFACTURING									
Durable Goods									
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.									
Fabricated Metal Products									
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing									
Nondurable Goods									
Food & Kindred Products									
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.									
Paper & Allied Products									
Printing & Publishing									
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.									

DUE TO THE TIME REQUIRED FOR REVISIONS, INFORMATION FOR BOTH JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1985 WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the newly defined New Orleans LMA in January decreased to 536,500, showing a downturn of 6,600 since December. Changes were largely seasonal in nature. Every industry division exhibited at least a small reduction in employment.

Manufacturing employment totaled 47,900 in January, down 100 from last month. In the durable goods sector, increases were reported in fabricated metal products, machinery, and ship and boatbuilding and repairing. The decrease in stone, clay and glass products was due to the closing of an area plant. In the nondurable goods sector, seasonal decreases were reported throughout the food and kindred products industry. A downturn in paper and allied products was offset by an increase in printing and publishing. Compared to one year ago, manufacturing employment increased by 1,200.

Retail trade was lowered by downward adjustments by almost every industry following the close of the holiday season. Wholesale trade tapered off in both the durable goods and nondurable goods segments. Service exhibited a sizable overall decrease largely in amusement services, the hotel-motel industry and business services. Construction was adversely affected by winter weather conditions. Mining made further seasonal cutbacks in oil and gas field services. Motor freight transportation eased down. Public utilities displayed a small decrease. Insurance reduced employment. All major sectors of government made minor retrenchments.

Estimated unemployment in January pushed up to 61,400, a level 6,600 above December. Seasonal factors were mainly responsible. Current joblessness accounts for 10.8 percent of the labor force compared to 9.8 percent in December and 9.5 percent in January of 1984. The unemployment rate of 10.8 percent in January was lower than the state rate of 11.2 percent, but higher than the comparable national rate of 8.0 percent. Beneficiaries of regular unemployment insurance totaled 16,755. About 46.0 percent of the claimants were non white; approximately 29.0 percent were female.

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the coming months is expected to exhibit a small overall gain. Retail trade will probably add workers as the Easter season approaches. Mining and construction will likely perk up as weather conditions improve. Transportation is predicted to show some increase with changes greatly dependent on developments in the national and international economics. Unemployment will probably decrease as employment increases.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	January 1985*	December 1984**	January 1984**	Net Change From December 1984	Net Change From January 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTUPAL EMPLOYMENT	143.1	145.3	135.4	- 2.2	+ 7.7
MANUFACTURING	22.7	23.0	20.3	- 0.3	+ 2.4
Durable Goods	18.4	18.5	15.5	- 0.1	+ 2.9
Lumber and Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.7	0	- 0.1
Metals and Machinery	12.5	12.6	9.6	- 0.1	+ 2.9
Primary and Fabricated Metals	2.4	2.4	2.5	0	- 0.1
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	10.1	10.2	7.1	- 0.1	+ 3.0
Other Durable Goods	5.3	5.3	5.2	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Good	4.3	4.5	4.8	- 0.2	- 0.5
Food & Kindred Products	0.9	0.9	1.0	0	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.4	1.5	1.4	- 0.1	0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.8	0.9	1.0	- 0.1	- 0.2
Other Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.4	0	- 0.2
MINING	5.0	5.5	5.2	- 0.5	- 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	9.0	9.1	7.9	- 0.1	+ 1.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	8.7	8.6	8.7	+ 0.1	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	34.6	35.7	32.7	- 1.1	+ 1.9
Wholesale Trade	9.4	9.1	8.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.6
Retail Trade	25.2	26.6	23.9	- 1.4	+ 1.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	7.7	7.9	7.7	- 0.2	0
SERVICES	30.0	30.1	28.2	- 0.1	+ 1.8
GOVERNMENT	25.4	25.4	24.7	0	+ 0.7
Federal	4.3	4.3	4.2	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	21.1	21.1	20.5	0	+ 0.6
State	6.6	6.5	6.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Local	14.5	14.6	14.0	- 0.1	+ 0.5

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	January '85*	December '84**	January '84**	January '85*	December '84**	January '84**	January '85*	December '84**	January '84**
All MANUFACTURING									
Lumber and Wood Products									
Metals and Machinery									
Food and Kindred Products									
Printing and Publishing									
Petroleum and Coal Products									

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Data in the average earnings table are for approximately production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

The total nonagricultural wage and salary employment for the Shreveport labor market area is 143,100, a decline from 145,300 in December, 1984. Total manufacturing employment, at 22,700, is 300 less than the December estimate, and 2,400 more than January, 1984. Nonmanufacturing employment, estimated at 120,400, is down from 122,300 in December, 1984.

The decline in manufacturing employment during the past month was equally divided between the manufacturing of machinery, petroleum and coal products and printing and publishing.

The most significant employment change during the past month occurred in nonmanufacturing with the seasonal decline in retail trade. In addition to the employment loss of 1,400 in retail trade since December, mining employment dropped 500, construction and services 100 each, finance, insurance and real estate 200, while an employment gain of 100 occurred in transportation and public utilities.

The current civilian labor force in the Shreveport labor area is 160,100, including 146,500 employed and 13,600 unemployed. The unemployment rate for the area is 8.5 percent, compared to 11.2 percent for the state.

Rising unemployment in this area should level off by the end of the first quarter. Adverse weather conditions are likely to continue to slow construction and other outdoor activities through most of the first quarter.